

Message Text

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17-12

ORIGIN COA-02

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R 262024Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PL, US

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: PORT CALLS

1. ON SEPT 17 THE POLISH EMBASSY REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR RESEARCH VESSEL HUMBAK TO MAKE A CALL AT SEATTLE OR ALTERNATELY AT SAN FRANCISCO. HUMBAK IS ENGAGED IN PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS OF PACIFIC FISHERIES AS DEPARTMENT WAS INFORMED ON JULY 31 PURSUANT TO DISCUSSIONS IN WARSAW IN COURSE OF ATLANTIC FISHERIES BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN JUNE AND THE AGREED MINUTES SIGNED AT THAT TIME.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ON SEPT 26 EXPLAINED TO EMBASSY REP WHY IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR HUMBAK TO MAKE CALLS AT WEST COAST PORTS. ONE REASON IS EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF PACIFIC COAST FISHING INDUSTRY TO PORT CALLS BY FOREIGN VESSELS. THERE HAVE NOT BEEN MANY SUCH CALLS ON THE WEST COAST AS THERE HAVE BEEN ON THE EAST COAST, FOR EXAMPLE, BY VESSELS OF THE POLISH FISHING FLEET, AND THE WEST COAST INDUSTRY REMAINS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE. DEPARTMENT AND COMMERCE (NMFS) FEEL THAT INDUSTRY WOULD REACT TO CALLS BY HUMBAK THAT USG WAS ASSISTING POLISH FISHING INDUSTRY TO

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DEVELOP PACIFIC COAST FISHERY. THIS WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFI-

CULT ANY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT BE HELD PURSUANT
TO AGREED MINUTES IF POLISH AUTHORITIES DESIRE TO DEVELOP
SUCH A FISHERY AFTER THE EXPLORATORY OPERATION. A SECOND

REASON IS GENERAL PUBLIC SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN FISHING
OPERATIONS OFF US COASTS AND PUBLIC PRESSURE ON CONGRESS
TO EXTEND US FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. CALLS
BY A POLISH FISHING VESSEL TO WEST COAST PORTS AT THIS
TIME COULD INTENSIFY SUCH PRESSURES. THUS IT PREFERABLE
THAT SUCH CALLS NOT BE MADE AND DEPARTMENT FEELS FOR THESE
TWO REASONS POLISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD AGREE THAT IT IS
PREFERABLE THAT HUMBAK NOT MAKE CALLS PACIFIC COAST PORTS.
DEPARTMENT OFFICER EMPHASIZED WE WERE NOT TRYING TO MAKE
DIFFICULTIES FOR THE POLISH FISHERY AND EMPHASIZED COOPER-
ATION IN ATLANTIC FISHERIES BILATERAL. RUSH

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